

Appendix G – Implementation Monitoring Plan and Project Review Spruce Beetle Epidemic and Aspen Decline Management Response 5/7/14 DRAFT

Objectives of the Monitoring Plan and Project Review

The project review is a monitoring method that provides documentation that we are doing what we said we would do; projects are implemented as planned. The project review is intended to be one way to provide feedback to forest managers about how to best design and implement treatments in the project area. The results of this monitoring will identify improvements to procedures or exemplary practices that will benefit future treatments authorized by the record of decision.

Focus of the Project Review

The plan described here assumes monitoring of the implementation of the treatments described in the treatment matrix in the DEIS will be conducted in conjunction with the use of the design features described in the DEIS, to ensure that treatments are designed and implemented according to the assumptions described and disclosed in the DEIS.

Types of monitoring that could occur during project review include, but are not limited to, monitoring of the use of Best Management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Landsⁱ. The monitoring procedures, personnel, timing, and tracking are explained in the Best Management Practices Protocols and Evaluation formsⁱⁱ. The focus of this monitoring is documentation of the use of soil and water Best Management Practices (BMPs) on a treatment. The results of the monitoring will be a part of the project review and subsequent Management Review.

Project reviews will also document a) the correct design features were selected from the list of design features in the EIS and b) that the design features were effective. This review will be completed when the BMP evaluation is completed. Project reviews will be completed by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists.

Findings from the project reviews can also be a mechanism to complete year-end reporting to regulatory agencies. For example, one of the design features for Canada lynx is to protect high quality habitat (greater than 35% dense horizontal cover) in the form of live advanced regeneration in blocks of 0.3 acres or larger. Project reviews will determine if this feature was followed and in a general way, was it effective. Validation of adherence with the standard will be reported to the US Fish and Wildlife Service on an annual basis.

Avoidance and protection of archeological resources is another reporting requirement. If a project review indicates a particular treatment did not follow a design feature, the report to the regulatory agency will include “corrective actions” to bring the Forest back into compliance. Most of the time, this will be an administrative fix (for example, working with the sale administrator to ensure archeological resources are flagged before ground disturbing activities occur).

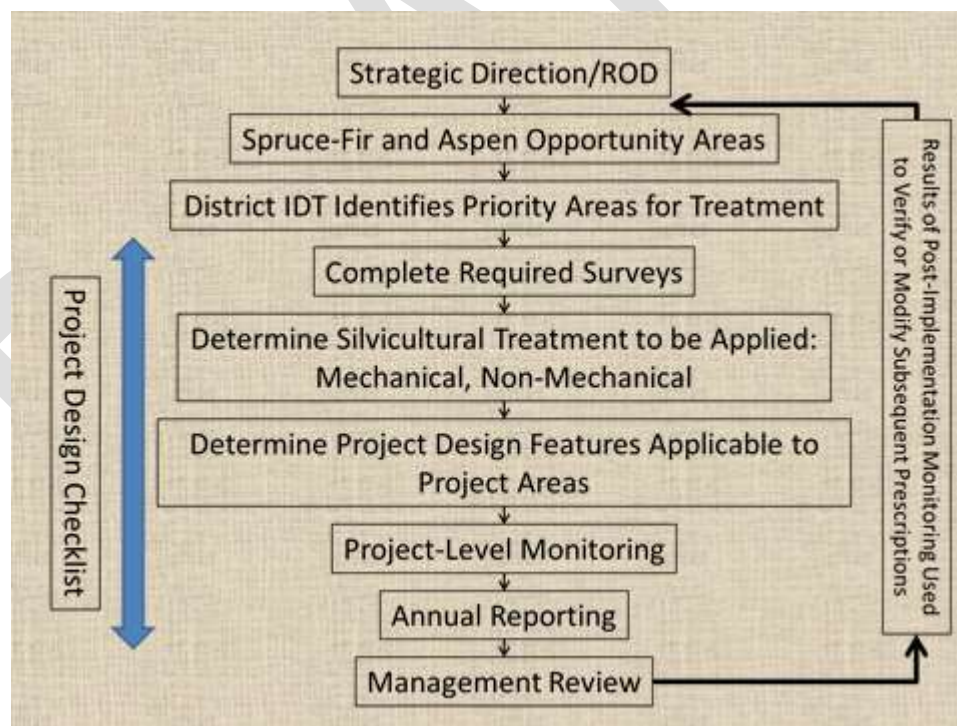
Results from the monitoring and project review will be part of the annual reporting to the Forest Leadership Team. The Management Review could result in changes to design features to make them

more effective; additional features could be added if needed. Management review could also identify additional monitoring measures that may be needed.

Management Reviews will also consider new best available science, changes in agency policy or direction, or changed conditions (such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service listing a species as threatened or endangered), and determine whether those changes warrant modified design features or modification of project planning or implementation. In some cases, the changed conditions may bring into question whether the scope and range of effects disclosed in this analysis are exceeded. Such questions would require the Forest to undertake an interdisciplinary review of the sufficiency of the NEPA documentation prepared for this project. The review may show the information in the original decision is still valid, and is not in need of correction or supplement. However, if that review illustrates a need for a correction, supplement or revision to the original decision, then the specific process to correct, supplement, or revise the analysis would be used, as specified in FSH 1909.15(18.2).

If the Forest Leadership Team makes changes to design features, implementation checklists, or monitoring, whether through correction, supplement, or revision, those changes will be applied to all future treatments planned by the Ranger Districts on the GMUG NF and authorized by the record of decision for this analysis.

The figure below shows how project-level monitoring fits into the implementation strategy.



ⁱ National Best management Practices for Water Quality Management on National Forest System Lands http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/watershed/FS_National_Core_BMPs_April2012.pdf

ⁱⁱ BMP Monitoring Protocols and Forms http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/wfw/watershed/national_bmps/bmp_docs-vegetation.html